

**CONFIDENTIAL**

PROD 15-16  
PROD 15-16-6

15 May 1973

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence**

**SUBJECT : Atlas Considerations**

1. The Middle East Atlas is now being disseminated. We printed 1200 copies. The original dissemination is about 350 copies. This very limited first distribution was a result of the new guidelines on publication and dissemination. I'm quite sure when the word gets around we will have no difficulty marketing the remaining copies.

2. I agree that an OUO or an Unclassified version would have had many advantages. It was classified Secret for the following three reasons in descending order of importance:

a. It was my view that the CIA could say almost nothing for the public record, or in a document almost certain to become public knowledge, on a situation so politically explosive both domestically and internationally as that prevailing in the Middle East.

b. Almost all of the photographs included in the atlas are taken from copyright publications. In my judgment, an OUO classification would not provide the Agency sufficient protection from legal action. We were unable to find good and adequate photographs from the NPIC ground photography files, despite a very thorough search. To obtain copyright permission would have been very time consuming because a large number of publications, domestic and foreign, were involved. In addition, cost of copyright release for photographs can run quite high -- up to \$200 and \$300 per picture.

c. Some of the material in the SOVIET INFLUENCE and the OCCUPIED TERRITORIES sections came from Secret-level documents.

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3. The Middle East Atlas could be revised to make it an Unclassified publication by minimum alterations of text, but major changes in the graphics which would require almost complete reformatting of the publication. There are various options open to us:

a. First, we could re-do the publication, leaving it essentially in its present format, searching and preparing new photos, replacing the SOVIET INFLUENCE chapter, and making other editorial changes. This option would cost us about 47 man-days Cartography Division time and 60 man-days Geography Division time, or a total of 107 man-days.

b. The second option would be to re-do the atlas in the same size and format, but arrange it to open from the left edge. This would take 67 man-days Cartography Division time and 60 man-days Geography Division time, or a total of 127 man-days.

c. The third option would be to re-do the atlas in the size and format of the China Atlas. This would take an estimated 87 man-days Cartography Division time and 60 man-days Geography Division time, or a total of 147 man-days.

4. Because we will have an extensive dissemination of the Secret version and because I would like to rethink the atlas in terms of a possible series, I recommend we redesign and reissue the Middle East Atlas in an Unclassified or Official Use Only version, planning for a completion target of early September. I suggest this approach to provide us ample time to work out an atlas series design which would provide the basic format for subsequent atlas publications.

5. I propose to formalize an atlas publication program, looking to the publication of two or perhaps three atlases a year to be done jointly by the Cartography and Geography Divisions. In most instances, the series would be Unclassified or Official Use Only.

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Approved For Release-2000/04/17 : CIA-RDP78-05927A000300120002-2

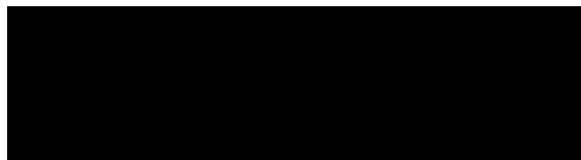
6. Tentatively, I view the series along these lines:

a. It should package issues and problems by regions, except for major countries such as China and the USSR.

b. The series might include atlases on the USSR, the Caribbean, East Europe, the Indian Ocean Area, the Polar Regions, East Africa, and the Persian Gulf. Topics that lend themselves to such treatment include law of the sea, world pollution, and the world energy crisis.

c. The contents would be fitted to the individuality of the region and consist of integrated text, maps, charts, and ground photos. I would use considerably fewer ground photos in the future than has been the case in the Middle East Atlas. OCI and OER help with substantive aspects of many of the problems, as in the past, would be essential.

d. The format would be a conventional vertical fold with the margin on the left; the dimensions would be reduced, perhaps by as much as 40 or 50%, from that of the Middle East Atlas.



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JOHN KERRY KING

Director

Basic and Geographic Intelligence

Distribution:

O&I - Addressee

1 - Ch/GD

1 - Ch/CD

2 - D/BGI

D/BGI:JKKing:jmc/2845(15 May 1973)

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- Approve:
1. Reissuing Middle East Atlas as Unclassified or Official Use Only like the China Atlas but somewhat smaller, aiming for a date in July.
  2. The principle of a small program for producing similar atlases along lines of paragraphs 5 and 6.

/s/ Edward W. Proctor  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

26 May 1973  
Date

\*cc: Chief, GD }  
Chief, CD } on 30 May 73

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\* Copy of memo w/ this approval statement